



Volume 97, Issue 159, January 22, 2015

The Plano Rotary Club www.PlanoRotary.com

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### January 22nd David Torrance -"Who are the Millenials?"

### January 29nd

Lynn Sipoiora, Executive Director - Samaritan Inn

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

David Hammel	Jan 01
Pamela Little	Jan 04
Jo Vai	Jan 05
Lynette Pieper	Jan 06
Yoram Solomon	Jan 08
David McWhorter	Jan 15
Jerry Aris	Jan 17
L.B. Showalter	Jan 17
Sherman Millender	Jan 19
John Brodhead	Jan 20
Alan Feigenbaum	Jan 21
Bev Kilmer	Jan 24





# WHY MLK DAY?

**HIS** sequence of photos means that Sainted Editor hugged Lori Phantom Crotchetiume Roberts by proxy; he's OK with that. However, the implication is that he hugged "Too Tall" one step removed. He shivers, and it's not from anticipation.

President Wonderful convened the assembly at 12:13, calling upon Plantom Crotchetiume for the Prayer and Jeff Frauenheim for the Pledge. ("Thank you, Bol!") Earnest thanked Executive Secretary Karen Sheldon for Greeting and called SERGEANT BARBERA to account.



Nathan managed to scare away any potential Visiting Rotarians, so it was left to **Myrtle Hightower** to introduce her guest and PISD Arts Director **Greg Arp**.

Emphasizing the punishing nature of **INSIDE THE ROTARIAN STUDIO**, Nathan

used it as a fine against **Mark Geller** who was glued to his smartphone, or, as Nathan put it, "*Don't text and Rotary*." Mark complained that his interview would be boring, but Nathan countered, "*The bowtie isn't boring*!"



Mark was born in Missouri, and his Mom was a housewife. His Dad sold glassware. He had one brother but no nickname. In high school he excelled in tennis and wrestling. He was a history major at **OU**, graduating to *Baylor Dental School*. He also did his residency at Baylor, prompting Nathan to declare him "*a provincial homeboy*." Mark has since provided an estimated **15,000** braces in his **39 years** of orthodontics. But he'd rather have been "*a big businessman*."

Favorite movie: "the last one I've seen," American Sniper. Music: **The Beatles.** 1<sup>st</sup> car: '55 Ford Fairlane. Favorite restaurant: "someplace in Dallas," quickly corrected by **Bruce Glasscock** to "someplace in **PLANO**!" Soda: Coke.



Mark's been a Rotarian for 38 years, joining because "*it's the greatest organization in the world*," and a Rotarian will be "*the last person to let me down*." His favorite Rotary memory was the wedding of **Jerry** and **Lola Smith** which someone surmised "*lasted until the bell*."

Chris Parr was honored with a 12-year attendance pin.



**Debbie Watson** made a pitch for the PSO's **Veleptipe Gele** at the *Marriott* on 14 February. She invited us to join the Roberts, the **Wrights**, the Parrs, and many others, but she cautioned us to buy our tickets before 20 January, when the cost rises.

Greg Arp rose to mention he's on a planning committee with Myrtle. It's for

an event called *Our Legacy Loud & Clear*, touting the history of Plano and PISD, 22 January at 7 pm at *Williams High School*. It will feature the *Plano Children's Chorale*.

Earnest likened our sunny day that "*lights up Plano*" to this year's Rotary motto, "*We light up Rotary*." Then he directed us to this meeting's generic birthday cake and we sang **HB2U** and applauded those who had successfully completed another full circuit around the Sun.



Then he introduced a man, who needed no introduction, Past President **Lenny Schwartz**, who would "bring to you in his customary unique fashion" his "very pas-

*sionate*(ly)" held beliefs about MLK Day.

Lenny described himself as a "conservative White man," and he asked, "What did MLK do for me?" Since he was "a Southerner," he asked why we didn't celebrate Gen. **Robert E. Lee's** birthday (coming up 19 January). Why, instead, do we celebrate **Martin Luther King, Jr**.'s? "There's no **Thomas Jefferson** Day. No **Einstein** Day."

We used to celebrate **George** Washington's Day, "but it's been re-

*named* President's Day," to honor both him and **Abraham Lincoln**. And we celebrate **Columbus** Day, because *"they were revolutionaries*!" Gen. Washington risked his life leading American troops in our War of Independence.

We didn't get MLK Day "because Coretta Scott King beat down LBJ." Then from the back of the hall came the mellifluous voice of Chris Phillips, intoning the words of Alexis de Tocqueville:







"America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

"*As Americans*," Lenny continued, "*we do not separate our identity as citi*-

zens from our religious affiliations." Even our money is emblazoned with "In God We Trust." But it's not easy to "align our beliefs with our actions." Civil Rights were not easily accomplished. "So how does it work when a portion of our population is treated differently because of the way they are born?"

"The importance of the Civil Rights Movement to America is that it pushed us to have our personal moral beliefs match our national laws. Until we achieved that alignment, we would struggle to be good as a nation, and that would have slowed our continued growth to be great."

John then quoted from Dr. King:

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed—We hold these Truths to be Self-evident: that all Men are created equal."

But there were "*many people pushing for equal rights*" then; why does MLK deserve a holiday? One such was Congressman **John Lewis**.

"The civil rights movement was based on faith. Many of us who were participants in this movement saw our involvement as an extension of our faith. We saw ourselves doing the work of the Almighty. Segregation and racial discrimination were not in keeping with our faith, so we had to do something."



And from Gandhi:

"Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of Mankind. It is mightier that the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man."

Lenny continued, "Our country loves the underdog." Movies are made less about the powerful winners as the powerless winners. "I

believe that violence would have kept the movement from achieving the ultimate goal of equality. Just look at Ferguson today. Whether the message is viable or not, the polls show the nation is behind the establishment and rejects the violence of the protestors..."

MLK took abuse but didn't resort to violence. He "eroded the stance of segregationists" through nonviolence. Civil Rights did not begin with MLK (and won't end with him either). There was the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment in 1868. Even in 1850, there were laws on the books recognizing the rights of minorities. Still institutional racism flourished both North and South. During the marches, it wasn't only Blacks who died. Men and women of good faith and all colors gave their lives to advance the ideal of a color-blind nation. Dr. King had a comment on such sacrifices:



"If a man has not discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

So, "die he did, for what he believed in."

Lenny believes that there is "an economic impact of civil rights." During the period between the Civil War and the turn of the last Century, "the U.S. surpassed England" as the economic leader of the world. In India, the caste system held the 2<sup>nd</sup> most populous nation back until it was outlawed; today, it's "an economic powerhouse." Nazi Germany "lost the moral war, then it lost the actual war." Stalin's purges of the '30's have hobbled



perhaps the most resource-rich nation on Earth to this day.

So we celebrate MLK Day, "not because he was Black but because he was a revolutionary." By prodding America's conscience, he has seen to it that "America is great, because America is good."

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

--Mahatma Gandhi "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

-Martin Luther King, Jr. We in the *Plano Rotary Club* don't celebrate Presidents' Day or Columbus Day, but we do MLK Day and have for several years. *"And the reason is simple: we represent the best of our community. We do it because* 

#### *Guests & Visiting Rotarians*

**Guest** Greg Arp **Guest of** Myrtle Hightower

Visiting Rotarian None Home Club

**Proposed Member** Proposed Member: Howard Matson Proposed by: Transfer we've been healing since we were hurt. [We'll do it until] we unite the community and show what's right."

Lenny received a round of applause to complement the "coveted and most prestigious" perpetual calendar. Earnest assured him "it's the Real Deal."

Then he quoted MLK:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction...The chain reaction of evil—hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars—must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation."

*"50 years from now they will ask, 'What did we do to make it better?"* 

Then he led us in the Four-Way Test and rang us out at 12:55.





"Building Peace Through Understanding"

Saturday, January 31, 2015 9am - 3pm SMU Legacy Campus 5228 Tennyson Parkway, Plano, TX 75024

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